

### Remarks

Claims 73-80 are pending in the application. The Office Action mailed November 19, 2003 stated that Claims 76-79 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as set forth in the Office Action, and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. Specifically, the Office Action stated that in claim 76, line 9, "back" should probably "bottom". Independent claim 76 has been amended to make clear that the stiffening block includes a front surface extending between an outer edge proximate the top surface of the block and an outer edge proximate the bottom surface of the block. In addition, dependent claim 77 has been amended to more succinctly and clearly recite the step of engaging the horizontal member with the U-shaped upper-end section. Applicant believes Claims 76-79, as amended, particularly point out and distinctly claim subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention in accordance with 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Claims 73 and 75 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Culpepper et al.; claim 80 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Wilson et al.; claim 74 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Culpepper et al. in view of Champagne; and claims 73-74 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Claims 73-75 and 80 are canceled without prejudice and without disclaimer of the subject matter thereof.

**Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance**

The Applicant neither agrees nor disagrees with the Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance of claims 76-79 in the Office Action mailed October 19, 2003. The Applicant believes that other reasons exist or may exist for the allowability of claims 76-79, and the allowability of claims 76-79 is not necessarily limited to the reasons set forth by the Examiner.

**Conclusion**

Applicant believes this case is now in condition for the immediate allowance of Claims 76-79, and such action is respectfully requested. If any issue remains unresolved, however, Applicant's attorney welcomes the opportunity for a telephone interview to expedite allowance and issue.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Jeffrey R. McFadden  
Registration No. 46,916

Womble, Carlyle, Sandridge, & Rice PLLC  
300 N. Greene Street  
Suite 1900  
Greensboro, NC 27401  
(336) 574-8060

Date: 2.19.04  
File No.: A50054 1010.1 (0005.0)